

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, PORT, BE, SP
SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 37006

1. SPANISH DEMARCHE (REFTEL) COMES AS SURPRISE TO
MISSION INASMUCH AS CONSENSUS AMONG NATIONAL DELEGATIONS
(INCLUDING, SECRETARIAT HAD TOLD US, SPANISH) WAS EMERG-
ING FOR SELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HIRAHARA, CURRENTLY ONE OF VICE
CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEE BUT WHO HAS BEEN CHAIRING MEETINGS
RECENTLY IN VIEW OF UK AMBASSADOR'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE.

HIRAHARA WOULD SERVE AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL SUMMER OF 1977,
WHEN HE IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE PARIS TO TAKE NEW ASSIGN-
MENT. FEELING AMONG MOST KEY DELEGATIONS HERE,
STRONGLY SHARED BY MISSION, IS THAT AMB. VALLAURE'S
EXCESSIVE WORDINESS, TENDENCY TO RAMBLE, AND OFT-MANI-
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FESTED LACK OF JUDGMENT MAKE HIM POOR CANDIDATE FOR
CHAIRMANSHIP. CONSULTATIONS AMONG DELEGATIONS ON
OTHER EARLY CANDIDATE, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LONNOY,
SIMILARLY REVEALED CONSENSUS (WITH WHICH WE ARE VERY
MUCH IN ACCORD) THAT HIS ARGUMENTATIVENESS, TENDENCY
TOWARD BELLIGERENCY, LACK OF BROAD VIEW AND POOR
JUDGMENT RENDERED HIM UNACCEPTABLE.

2. AMBASSADOR HIRAHARA HAS RARE QUALITY AMONG JAPANESE OF SPEAKING BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLUENTLY AND, IN CONTRAST TO LONNOY AND VALLAURE, HIRAHARA THINKS CLEARLY AND EXPRESSES HIMSELF CONCISELY. OVER PAST MONTH, HIRAHARA HAS DONE WORKMANLIKE JOB IN CHAIRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE JAPANESE THIS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY; THEY HAVE BEEN UNDERREPRESENTED IN TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXPEDIENT, AT A TIME WHEN ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE CALLED UPON FOR NEW TASKS REQUIRING CONCEIVABLY SOME REORGANIZATION FOR CHAIRMAN TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF THE BIG SEVEN COUNTRIES WHO BY COMMON UNDERSTANDING ARE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3. RENEWED SOUNDINGS BY MISSION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL, FRENCH, GERMANS AND BRITISH REVEALED ALL CONTINUED TO SUPPORT HIRAHARA. IN VIEW OF THIS AND OF CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND U.S. SUPPORT HIRAHARA CANDIDACY.

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